

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) A method for translating instant messages exchanged between a first user using a first device and a second user using a second device over a communication network, the first user having a first translation preference and the second user having a second translation preference, the method comprising:

establishing an instant messaging session between the first device and the second device;

sending by the first device to the second device during the established session an indication of the first translation preference;

receiving by the first device from the second device during the established session an indication of the second translation preference, wherein the second translation preference is different from the first translation preference;

receiving by the first device from the first user a first message intended for the second device, the first message composed according to the first translation preference;

translating the received first message from the first translation preference to the second translation preference; and

transmitting the translated message in the second translation preference to the second device as an instant message during the established session via the communication network.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 further comprising, storing by the first device the received indication of the second translation preference

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the translation preference is specified as a destination language.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the translation preference is specified as a locality.

41. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37 wherein the translation preference is specified as a geographic setting.

42. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 37.

43-47. (Cancelled)

48. (New) A computing system of a first device for translating instant messages sent from a first user using the first device to a second user using a second device over a communication network, the first user having a first translation preference and the second user having a second translation preference, comprising:

- a component that establishes an instant messaging session between the first device and the second device;
- a component that during the established instant messaging session receives from the second device an indication of the second translation preference, wherein the second translation preference is different from the first translation preference;
- a component that receives from the first user a message intended for the second user, the first message composed according to the first translation preference, and that translates the received message from the first translation preference to the second translation preference received during the established instant messaging session; and
- a component that transmits during the established instant messaging session the translated message in the second translation preference to the second device via the communication network.

49. (New) The computing system of claim 48 wherein the component that receives stores the received indication of the second translation preference

50. (New) The computing system of claim 48 wherein the translation preference is specified as a destination language.

51. (New) The computing system of claim 48 wherein the translation preference is specified as a locality.

52. (New) The computing system of claim 48 wherein the translation preference is specified as a geographic setting.